

# Acute, Generalized Vesicular or Pustular Rash Illness Testing Protocol in the United States

## Introduction

This protocol has been developed to illustrate the types of laboratory testing to be undertaken in different situations involving patients with acute, generalized vesicular or pustular rash illness. The protocol is composed of four charts, each illustrating a different set of symptoms or circumstances. It has been designed to correlate with "Evaluating Patients for Smallpox: Acute, Generalized Vesicular or Pustular Rash Illness Protocol" ([www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/diagnosis/riskalgorithm](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/diagnosis/riskalgorithm)).

**Chart 1** lists the symptoms associated with acute, generalized vesicular or pustular rash illness and categorizes the risk of smallpox according to the patient's signs and symptoms.

**Chart 2** presents a flow chart for laboratory testing of specimens from patients presenting with acute generalized vesicular or pustular rash illness. A two-armed algorithm is presented to reduce the time to receive results and to ensure that testing of high-risk specimens is confined to laboratories with appropriate biosafety levels and expertise. The two arms of the testing algorithm are for 1) specimens from individuals with low- and moderate-risk symptoms and 2) specimens from individuals with high-risk symptoms.

**Chart 3** presents a testing algorithm that should be used when a smallpox vaccine adverse event or monkeypox infection is suspected.

**Chart 4** presents an orthopoxvirus testing algorithm for environmental samples.

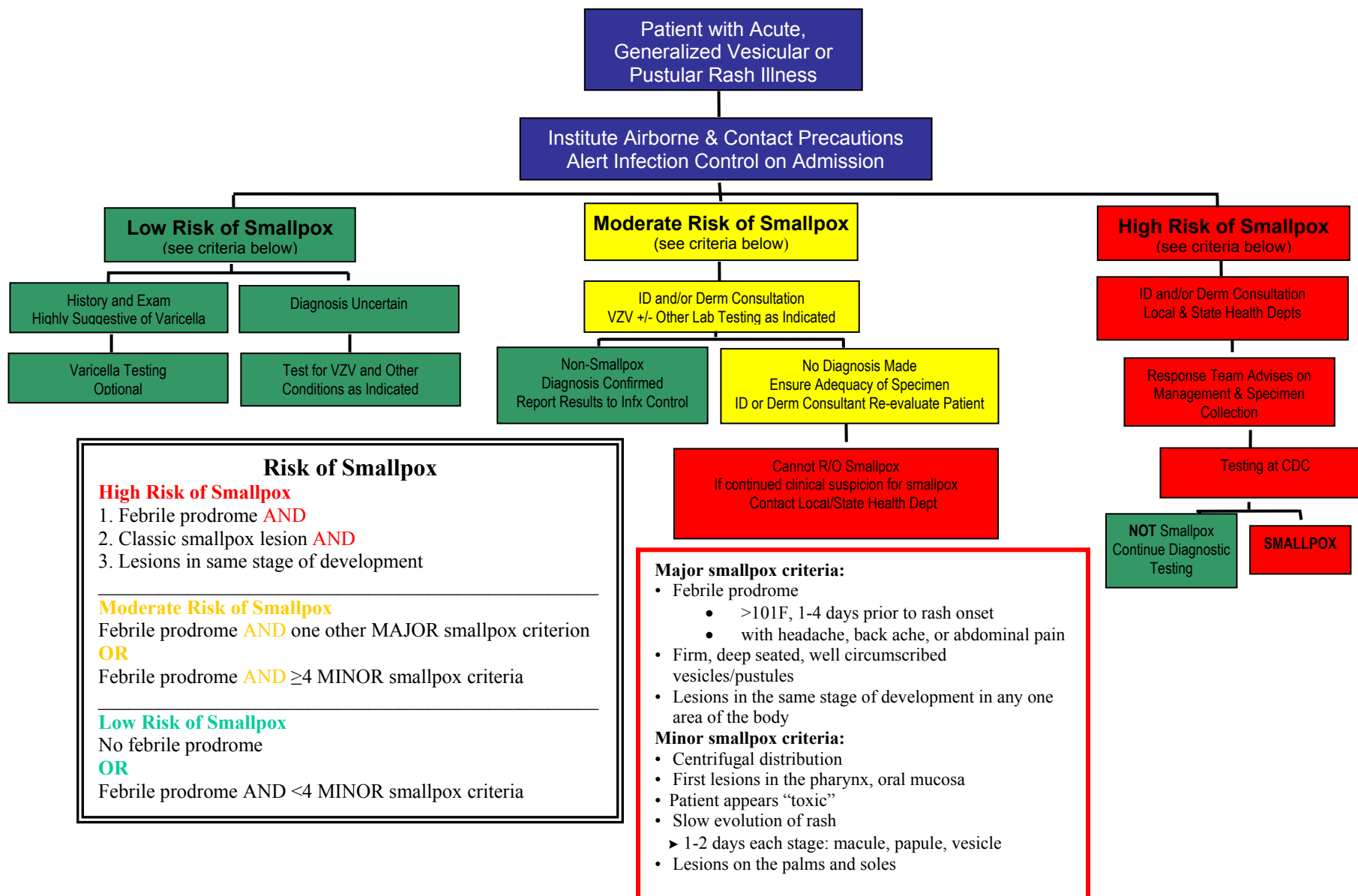
The testing protocols are supported at Laboratory Response Network (LRN) reference laboratories. Details for performance and interpretation of each assay are specified in each LRN procedure.

Details on specimen collection can be found at the following websites:

- Smallpox vaccine: [www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/vaccination/vaccinia-specimen-collection.asp](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/vaccination/vaccinia-specimen-collection.asp)
- Smallpox: [www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/response-plan/files/guide-d.pdf](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/response-plan/files/guide-d.pdf)
- Monkeypox: [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/monkeypox/diagspecimens.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/monkeypox/diagspecimens.htm)

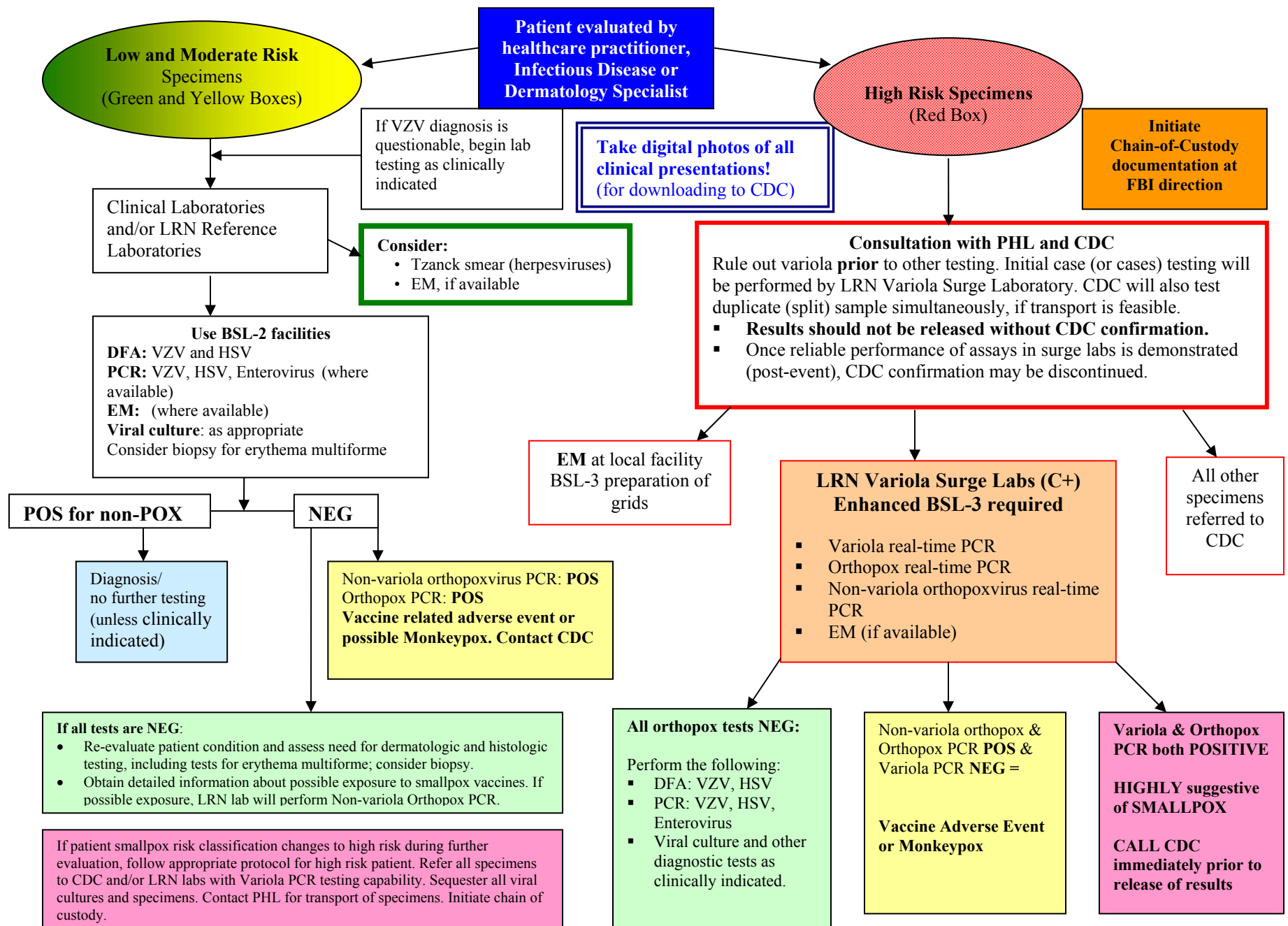
## Chart 1. Acute, Generalized Vesicular or Pustular Rash Illness Protocol

From the "CDC Protocol for Evaluating Patients for Smallpox" at [www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/diagnosis/evalposter.asp](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/diagnosis/evalposter.asp)

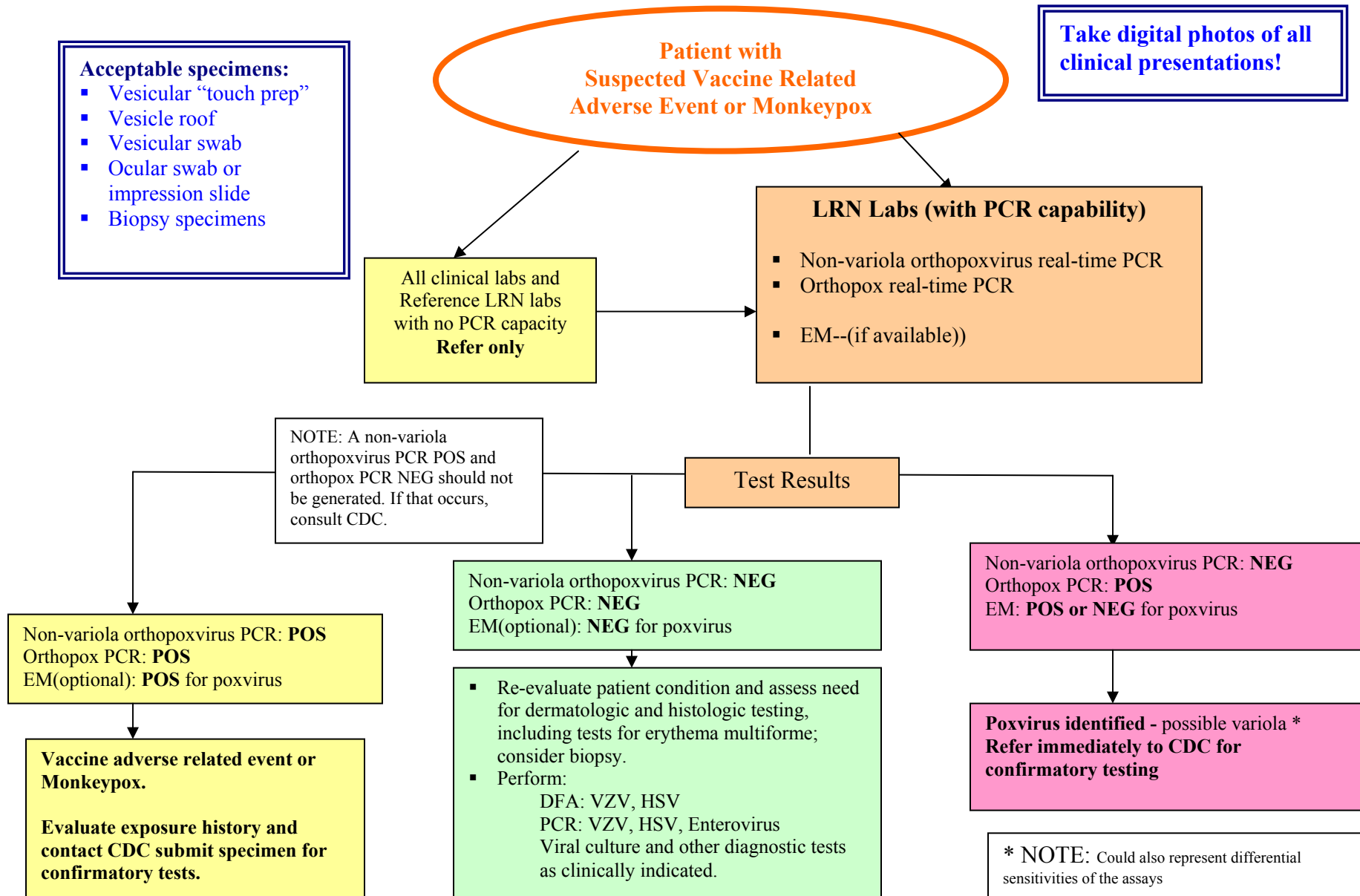


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**Chart 2. Laboratory Testing for Acute, Generalized Vesicular or Pustular Rash Illness in the United States**



**Chart 3. Laboratory Testing for Suspected Smallpox Vaccine (Vaccinia) Adverse Events or Monkeypox in the United States**



**Chart 4. Laboratory Testing for Environmental Samples in the United States**

